

REPORTS OF TOWN OFFICERS
OF THE
TOWN OF CORNISH,
FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 9, 1858.

COPY OF WARNING.

State of New Hampshire.

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Cornish, in the County of Sullivan, in said State,
qualified to vote in Town Affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Town-House, in said Cornish, on Tuesday,
the ninth day of March next, at nine of the clock in the forenoon, to act on the fol-
lowing subjects, viz:—

- 1st. To choose a Moderator to preside in said Meeting.
- 2d. To choose a Town Clerk.
- 3d. To choose a Representative to represent this Town in the General Court of
this State.
- 4th. To bring in your votes for Governor, Councilor, Senator, Railroad Commis-
sioner, County Treasurer, Register of Deeds, and one County Commissioner.
- 5th. To choose Selectmen, and all other necessary Town Officers.
- 6th. To raise such sums of money as may be necessary to defray Town charges
the ensuing year.
- 7th. To raise such sums of money as may be necessary to make and repair High-
ways the ensuing year.
- 8th. To raise such sums of money as may be necessary to pay land damage and
the making of the road, on petition of Lewis T. Chase and others.
- 9th. Is it expedient to alter the Constitution?
- 10th. To see what sums of money the Town will vote to raise to purchase a Hearse
for the benefit of the Town, and provide for its safe keeping.
- 11th. To see if the Town will vote to sell one or both of the old Hearses.
- 12th. To see if the Town will vote to disannex the farm of Merrill and Mitchell
Coburn, beginning at a stake and stones standing on the line of Joseph Richardson,
Solon H. Deming, and James M. Davidson, to Nathan Leavitt's line; thence north,
on said Leavitt's west line; to land of Joseph Sargent; thence west, on the south
line of said Sargent and Charles F. Higgins, to the east line of land belonging to the
heirs of Benj. H. Chase, deceased; thence south, on the east line of said Chase's
heirs and Joseph Richardson, to the place of beginning, from School District No.
16, and annex the same to School District No. 6, in said Town.
- 13th. To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the road commencing at the
School-House in District No. 12, and leading northerly to Barker B. Churchill's
Gate, so called.
- 14th. To see if the Town will vote to build a Brace Bridge where the Dingleton
Bridge, so-called, now stands.

Given under our hands and seal, this twentieth day of February, in the year
eighteen hundred and fifty-eight.

J. B. COMINGS, } Selectmen
J. M. DAVIDSON, } of
C. PIKE, } Cornish.

John Lane

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

The Selectmen have assessed the inhabitants of the Town of Cornish,	
and lands of non-residents owners, the sum of	\$4,939 73
School District No. 11,	68 05
“ “ No. 1,	30 13

There has been paid into the Treasury the following additional sums :

Literary Fund,	137 70
Interest on School Fund,	35 00
Proceeds from sales of Harvey Chase's property,	3 32
For the support of Mrs. Bartlett, 1857,	40 59
Cash received of County for support of paupers,	108 50
“ in hands of Abel Jackson, Agent,	65 00
“ received of Samuel L. Powers, Agent, 1856,	11 00
“ “ Abel Jackson, Agent,	50 00
Due from S. L. Powers, Agent, 1856,	23 48
Due on Rail Road Tax,	31 00

Making the whole amount	\$5,543 50
Deduct cash paid State and County Treasurers,	936 33
Leaves a balance of	\$4,607 17

EXPENDITURES.

For support of the Poor, away from Alms-House,	\$259 39
Alms-House expenses, including repairs,	737 58
For plank and timber,	171 11
For support of Schools,	1,131 52
Bishop & Tracy, for printing reports, &c., 1856,	13 70
John Gilbert, damage on goods,	17 00
James F. Tasker, building Mercer Bridge,	137 00
William P. Johnson, for dry bridge, 1854,	24 00
James F. Tasker, for repairing Weld Bridge,	99 00
Bradley Burr, for building Comings Bridge,	125 30
Israel Hall and others, repairing roads and bridges,	276 43
Newton Jackson, abatement of taxes,	2 29
B. C. Clark, “ “	6 54
William E. Chadborn, “ “	3 85
George M. Chase, “ “	1 54
Hiram A. Day, “ “	1 54
Levi Ayers, for land damage,	6 00
James M. Davidson, for collecting and returning guns to Portsmouth,	9 26
George W. Weld, damage to carriage, 1856,	2 00
Edwin T. Bartlett, “ “ “	1 25
John Johnson, damage by cattle, 1856,	5 00

503 110
 969 73
 349 62 3

Milton Wyman, for stone, 1856,	4 76
Israel Hall, School Tax, in District No. 1,	30 00
James M. Lewis, injury to self and carriage,	7 00
Williams Barton, Teachers' Institute,	29 04
James G. Freeman, injury to horse,	15 00
Joseph B. Comings, interest on orders,	31 20
Joshua Atwood, " "	7 86
William Balloch, Auditor's Services, 1856,	2 00
Due School District No. 11,	68 05
William P. Johnson, damage to plow, 1856,	2 00
Silas Spalding, " carriage,	2 50
Freeman McClure, and others, Attorney Fees,	5 00
Charles Carroll, damage to sleigh,	50
John T. Breck, notifying Jurors,	2 75
Henry Gould, damage to scraper,	2 00
Lucinda Weld, for clothing,	12 00
Treasurer's services,	10 00
Town Clerk's " "	21 00
Selectmen's " "	141 35
Contingent expenses,	45 92
Collector's services, due,	25 00

Amounting to

\$3,497 53

Which sum deducted from the above Receipts, leaves a balance in favor of the Town of \$1,109 64, which sum has been applied to the indebtedness of 1856.

We recommend to the inhabitants of the Town of Cornish to raise, to defray Town charges the ensuing year, the sum of \$1,200; and to pay debts against the Town, the sum of \$900.

Also, to repair Highways and Bridges, the sum of \$2,000.

To pay land damages and for building Road, on petition of L. T. Chase, and others, \$461 88.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

J. B. COMINGS, } *Selectmen*
 J. M. DAVIDSON, } *of*
 C. PIKE, } *Cornish.*

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The amount of debts against the Town, in orders drawn,	\$1,942 07
Cash on hand,	\$279 77
Cash in Collector's hands,	780 08
	<hr/> 1,059 85

Leaving a balance against the Town of \$882 22

The whole amount of the School Fund now in the hands of the Treasurer is \$470 86.

All of which is respectfully submitted by

HENRY GOULD, *Treasurer.*

460717
 347623
 1110,94
 130
 1109,64

1200
 300

ALMS-HOUSE REPORT.

For supporting this establishment the following sums have been paid, by orders drawn on the Treasurer :

Paid Agent for 1857, to February 28, 1858,	\$227 68
Paid for two Cows,	80 00
Paid John Westgate for making 76 M. Shingles, and work in Haying,	118 00
Sundry bills,	216 46
Paid for Repairs,	152 66

Total,		\$794 80
Received of I. Hall,	\$3 32	
“ the Town,	3 50	
“ County, for support of County Paupers,	108 50	
“ Mrs. Bartlett,	40 59	
Due from County, for support of County Paupers,	40 00	
Due Alms-House from other sources,	17 00	
Received by Shingles,	57 00	
Excess of inventory above last year, consisting of stock, provisions, hay, grain, &c.,	133 05	
	402 96	
Which deducted from the above, leaves a balance against the Alms-House of		\$391 84

An inventory and appraisal of the personal property at the Alms-House was made on the 27th day February, 1858, which amounts at par cash value, \$1,587 00—an increase over last year's appraisal of \$133 05.

The produce of the Farm has been as follows:—35 tons of hay; 17 bushels of oats; 20 do. rye; 30 do. beans; 250 do. corn; 120 do. potatoes; 60 do. apples; 10 do. carrots; 10 do. turnips; 4 do. beets; 2½ do. onions; 2 loads of pumpkins; 100 heads of cabbage; 9 calves; 5 pigs; 60 chickens; 3 turkeys; 379 pounds of butter; 1272 do. cheese; 408 do. beef; 1350 do. pork.

We find upon examination that the general appearance of the Buildings, Farm, and Fences, have been greatly improved the past year. The house has been kept in a remarkably neat condition.

There has been at the Alms-House, during the past year, from eleven to nineteen inmates; one has died; the present number is fifteen.

All respectfully submitted,

J. B. COMINGS,	}	Overseers of the Poor.
J. M. DAVIDSON,		
C. PIKE,		

AGENTS' REPORT.

The undersigned, Agent appointed to sell Wines and Spiritous Liquors for the Town of Cornish, from April 18th, 1857, one year, reports to March 3d, 1858 :

PURCHASES.

Bought 141 gallons Alcohol, 23 do. Holland Gin, 12½ do. Brandy, 1 do. Wine, costing in all,	\$193 43
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SALES.

Amount of cash received on 760 sales of Wine, Alcohol, Brandy, and Gin,	\$183 12
Amount on hand, 40 galls. Alcohol,	31 03
2 " Holland Gin,	2 75
1 " Brandy,	2 75
4 Liquor Barrels,	4 00
	<hr/> 40 53
	\$223 65
Deduct amount of purchases,	193 43
	<hr/> \$30 22
Balance in favor of the Town,	
All of the above sales were for medicinal purposes, except 1 gallon of Alcohol for mechanical purposes.	ABEL JACKSON, Agent.

REPORT

OF THE

Superintending School Committee.

FELLOW-CITIZENS:—In accordance with the provisions of that portion of our Statutes which relates to the interests of Education, I respectfully submit for your consideration the following Report of the condition of the Common Schools of Cornish during the past year. I shall venture to depart a little from the course pursued by former Committees, and give a very brief account of each School, believing that such a form is more in accordance with the letter of the law, and perhaps may be quite as interesting to the reader.

District No. 1.—Prudential Committee, WILLIAM E. CHADBORN. Amount of school money, \$96.41; contributed, 18.00. Number of scholars in summer, 24; in winter, 21. The summer term, of 12 weeks, was taught by Miss ISABELLA L. PUTNAM, of Cornish. This was the teacher's first effort in teaching. The scholars made commendable progress; yet the teacher did not succeed in maintaining as good order as she probably would have done in a District, where she was less acquainted. The winter term, of 12 weeks, was taught by STORY D. FLETCHER, of Cornish. Mr. F. had never taught before. His literary qualifications were good, yet he lacked that firmness and decision, without which a School like this cannot be governed. The scholars were not studious, and but little progress was made in the several branches. This District needs the services of an experienced teacher.

District No. 2.—Prudential Committee, LEWIS CHASE. Amount of school money, \$86.90. Number of scholars in summer, 13; in winter, 16. The summer term, of 12 weeks, was taught by Miss MARY E. KIMBALL, of Wethersfield, Ct. This was a profitable School. The instruction was thorough, and the order good. The scholars made commendable progress. The winter term, of 12 weeks, was taught by ELIHU H. PIKE, of Cornish. There was every evidence of thorough teaching and good discipline in this School. The classes were not so far advanced as in some Schools, but what they had passed over they had learned understandingly.

District No. 3.—Prudential Committee, WILLIAM P. JOHNSON. Amount of school money, \$50.26. Number of scholars in summer, 15; in winter, 23. In summer a term of 8 weeks was taught by Miss FIDELIA E. JOHNSON, of Woodstock, Vt. The School closed without notice. The winter term was taught by Miss LUCY A. KENYON, of Cornish. Miss K. is a resident of the District. The instruction was not so thorough and the order was not so good in this School as is desirable, yet the scholars made some progress. The teacher would probably have been more successful among strangers.

District No. 4.—Prudential Committee, SYLVESTER N. BARTLETT. Amount of school money, \$50.78; contributed, \$20.00. Number of scholars in summer, 15; in winter, 25. The summer term, of 10 weeks, was taught by Miss BELL DEMING, of Cornish. The instruction was thorough, and the order good. The School was a good one. The winter term, of 10 weeks, was taught by Miss ALVERIA O. DEMING, of Cornish. Miss D. is an experienced teacher, and she fully sustained her former reputation. The closing examination was highly satisfactory.

District No. 5.—Prudential Committee, NELSON KENYON. Amount of school money, \$59.58; contributed, \$30.00. Number of scholars in summer, 17; in winter, 16. The summer term, of 8 weeks, was taught by Miss EMERETT AYRES, of Cornish. The School closed without notice. It appeared well at the commencement. The winter term, of 12 weeks, was taught by FRANK D. NEVENS, of Cornish. This was his first attempt at teaching. Not quite as strict discipline existed as there should be; yet the scholars made very commendable progress.

District No. 6.—Prudential Committee, ALVIN COMINGS. Amount of school money, \$178.32. *Primary Department.*—Number of scholars in summer, 30; in winter, 28. The summer term, of 12 weeks, in this department, was taught by Miss LAURA J. MARTINDALE, of Cornish. Miss M. is one of our most efficient teachers. The order was good, the scholars made rapid progress, and the reading and other exercises at the close of this School would have been an honor even to a class of much older scholars. The winter term, of 10 weeks, was taught by Miss CALTHA C. COMINGS, of Cornish. Miss C. was a novice in teaching. The discipline of the School was not quite up to the standard. The scholars made fair progress, and the reading at the close of the School was satisfactory. *Principal Department.*—Number of scholars in summer, 29; in winter, 49. The summer term, of 12 weeks, was under the instruction of Miss SARAH C. BOND, of Cornish. The teacher's literary qualifications were good, but there was a want of that easy method of conducting recitations and imparting knowledge to others, so necessary to the teacher of a Common School. The scholars made some progress. The teacher would undoubtedly have been more successful among strangers. The winter term in this department was commenced by OLIVER K. CROSBY, of Plainfield, N. H. The Teacher failed to gain the good will of scholars, and at the end of two weeks quietly withdrew from the School. The remainder of the term was taught by G. A. VINTON, of Cornish. Mr. V. is a teacher of much experience, and has already earned a reputation, to which anything that might now be said would add but little. Under his instruction the School progressed thoroughly in their studies, and the closing examination was highly creditable to both teacher and scholars. The last teacher remained 8 weeks.

District No. 7.—Prudential Committee, HENRY CHASE. Amount of school money, \$88.59; contributed, \$18.00. Number of scholars in summer, 23; in winter, 36.—The summer term, of 12 weeks, was taught by Miss LIZZIE C. DEMING, of Cornish. Miss D. is an experienced teacher. Her School was interrupted by sickness, yet much good was accomplished. It would add greatly to the appearance of the School in this District, if the scholars would speak in a louder tone of voice. The winter term was taught by HENRY AYERS, of Cornish. The School progressed finely until about the middle of the term, when the teacher's health failed; and after making several attempts to proceed, he was finally obliged to abandon the School. The School continued, in all, 8 weeks.

District No. 8.—Prudential Committee, JASON GOWARD. Amount of school money, \$96.21; contributed, \$30.00. Number of scholars in summer, 32; in winter, 35. The summer term, of 12 weeks, was taught by Miss FRANCES L. WYMAN, of Cornish. The instruction was thorough, and the order good. The scholars made commendable progress. The winter term, of 14 weeks, was taught by JOHN A. GEORGE, of Newport. This was a fine School indeed. The teacher's whole soul was in his School. The instruction was thorough, and rapid progress was made. Kindly feelings existed between the teacher and scholars; and the closing examination was highly creditable to all concerned. The exercises were not excelled by those of any School in town.

District No. 9.—Prudential Committee, CHARLES COMINGS. Amount of school money, \$49.14. Number of scholars in summer, 10; in winter, 11. The summer term, of 8 weeks, was taught by Miss SUSAN M. DEMING, of Cornish. The teacher was quite young, but gave evidence of her ability to teach. The scholars made good progress. The best exercise in Colburn's Arithmetic that I have heard during the year was in this School. The winter term, of 12 weeks, was taught by Miss LAURA F. DEWEY, of Berlin, Vt. The teacher seemed much interested for the welfare of her scholars; but her method of instruction was not interesting to the minds of children. The order was good, and commendable progress was made. At the closing examination I was pleased to meet several of the parents and citizens of the District in this School.

District No. 10.—Prudential Committee, NEHEMIAH LEAR. Amount of school money, \$81.37; contributed, \$10.00. Number of scholars in summer, 18; in winter, 32. The summer term, of 10 weeks, was taught by Miss ELLEN M. SPAULDING, of Cornish. The teacher seemed rather young for the School; yet at the close there

Votes in March 1858
 For Governor Rep 205
 Dem 131
 74

was evidence that she had performed her duties well. The closing examination was satisfactory. The winter school was under the instruction of WORTHEN H. AMES, of Newport. The teacher was energetic and persevering; but a portion of the scholars became dissatisfied, and serious difficulty was apprehended. At length several of the larger boys withdrew from the School, and then things went on harmoniously. I think the School was lengthened two weeks by contribution. I was glad to see several of the citizens present at the closing examination. There was evidence that the scholars had not misspent their time. Length of School, 10 weeks.

District No. 11.—Prudential Committee, OBED POWERS. Amount of school money, \$105.20; contributed, \$30.00. Number of scholars in summer, 35; in winter, 45.—The summer term, of 12 weeks, was taught by Miss SARAH J. WALKER, of Cornish. This was a successful School. The discipline was strict, and the scholars made fair improvement. In winter the School, for 12 weeks, was under the instruction of JOHN WEST, of Bradford. Complaints were made that the teacher was too severe; yet the discipline of the School was not so strict as it should have been. The scholars made commendable progress. This School needs the services of an experienced teacher and thorough disciplinarian.

District No. 12.—Prudential Committee, AMOS KELLEY. Amount of school money, \$27.74. Number of scholars, 12. But one term, of 13 weeks, commencing Aug. 31st, taught by Miss ADELINE S. KELLEY. This was the teacher's first effort at teaching. The order was not so good as desirable, but the scholars made some progress.

District No. 13.—Prudential Committee, G. A. VINTON. Amount of school money, \$52.16. Number of scholars, 14. There was no summer school in this District. The winter term, of 15 weeks, was taught by Miss LIZZIE C. DEMING, of Cornish. The instruction was thorough, and good order was preserved. At the close of the School it was evident that good progress had been made. The tone of voice was not sufficiently loud.

District No. 14.—Prudential Committee, CHARLES FLETCHER. Amount of school money, \$30.25. Number of scholars, 12. There was no summer school in this District. There was a winter term, of 14 weeks, taught by Miss MARTHA J. WILMARTH, of Newport. In Miss W. are happily blended all the qualities of a successful teacher. Mild, but strict in discipline, pleasant and easy in communicating her ideas to others, thorough and persevering in her instruction, it is not strange that her scholars made rapid progress. The closing examination was entirely satisfactory.

District No. 15.—Prudential Committee, MICHAEL McCARTY. Amount of school money, \$16.35. There has been no School in this District during the year.

District No. 16.—Prudential Committee, OLIVER BURR. Amount of school money, \$59.88; contributed, \$40.00. Number of scholars in summer, 23; in winter, 30. The summer term, of 12 weeks, was taught by Miss ELVIRA L. BRYANT, of Cornish. The teacher was quite young. The discipline was not quite as strict as it should have been, yet the scholars made commendable improvement. On the whole, the School was a profitable one. The winter term was under the instruction of Miss LAURA J. MARTINDALE, of Cornish, and continued 16 weeks. It will be sufficient to say of this School, that the teacher fully sustained her former reputation. The scholars made fine improvement.

Having thus given a brief account of the condition of the Schools during the year, allow me to add a few remarks and suggestions. During the year, twenty-eight different teachers have been employed,—of whom nine were males, and nineteen females. Twelve had never taught before. Twenty-three were residents of Cornish. With but very few exceptions, these servants of the public have discharged their varied and arduous duties faithfully. In almost every instance the literary qualifications of those proposing to teach have been good; yet I have found, by observation in the school-room, that some of them were much better qualified for answering questions than for asking them. Or, in other words, we find that a teacher may be well posted in the knowledge of books, and still be unsuccessful in imparting that knowledge to others. I would not have it inferred from this that teachers should be ignorant of books—certainly not. But having acquired a suitable knowledge of books, they ought to learn how to impart that knowledge to others in an interesting and successful manner. They ought to study teaching as a profession, just as much as the student, after leaving College, studies the profession of law or medicine. It may be asked, How are they to do this? I answer, first, that they may obtain much information by visiting the Schools of experienced teachers; and, further, that it was precisely for the purpose of meeting this want, that Teachers' Institutes were established in the different counties of our State. I am aware that some entertain the opinion that these Institutes are useless, or worse than useless. Very likely

this may be the case so long as teachers, or a majority of them at least, are careful not to attend them. Some means should be devised to insure the attendance of teachers at the Institute, and then we could judge of its usefulness.

School Houses.—We have in town almost every variety and grade of School Houses, from those of modern style and finish down to the dilapidated hovel, hardly suitable for a pig-stye. In District No 1, the location is unpleasant, and the house itself unfit to be occupied as a school-room. In No. 3 the house is valuable only as a relic of antiquity, and should be rebuilt immediately. In No. 5 the teacher remarks that the house has completed its three score and ten years, and he thinks its room would be far better than its company. In No. 10 the house is quite too small for the number of scholars, and in very bad condition. A new one would be a blessing to the district. In No. 16 the house is very comfortable, but entirely too small.

It is a question hard to be solved why our people are so careless of the welfare of their children as not to provide them with good and comfortable school houses. They are not stingy in other respects. I doubt not there has been money enough expended within the past few years by the wealthy inhabitants of our town, for the purpose of building railroads, &c., which do not now pay a very liberal interest, to have built and furnished a model school house for each district in town. When will people learn wisdom in these things.

Text Books.—An effort has been made by the Board of Education for several years past to introduce a uniform list of text books into the schools of our State, but thus far without entire success. The greatest obstacles in the way of doing this are the impertinent agents of the large book establishments in the cities, each one of whom is determined to introduce his favorite book at all hazards; and I fear they have had some influence with members of the Board of Education; for we find different members of the board introducing different lists of books. The schools in this town certainly need a change of reading books. They have used their present readers till many of the scholars have nearly committed the lessons to memory, and therefore the books have lost their interest. No change of reading books has been made for several years, with the exception of a few Standard readers introduced last year, which only made a bad matter worse. Whenever a change is made it should be made entire throughout the town, for to increase the variety of books only perplexes the Teacher. An unusual share of attention has been paid by most of the schools to their exercises in reading and spelling, with the most happy results, and in arithmetic scholars have been required to make practical application of what they had learned by solving questions not found in the text book. Writing is still too much neglected in our schools. Every Teacher should devote a portion of each day if possible to this exercise. The writing of Compositions, so far as I am informed, is almost entirely neglected. This is decidedly wrong. Every scholar who can form a simple sentence should be required to practice composition at stated periods. I consider it one of the most useful exercises in which a School can engage.

It is pleasing to see in almost every register a goodly number of visits made to the Schools by parents and citizens. This is as it should be. There can be no doubt but parents *feel* a sufficient interest in the education of their children; yet they sometimes neglect to manifest this feeling by visiting the Schools, and by their presence stimulate and encourage both teacher and scholars to renewed action.

The Annual Report of the Board of Education has been received and distributed. It is desirable that each copy should be circulated throughout its District, so that all may enjoy the reading of it.

WILLIAM BALLOCH,

Superintending School Committee.

CORNISH, March 2d, 1858.

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